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NORTHERN PLANT NOVELTIES FOR 1937

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Hardy Apricots Are Here
Probably the Greatest Hardy Fruit Introduction in Many Years

Apricots are a highly desirable fruit, either fresh or canned. But the apricots of commerce are mainly for the peach growing regions and are not hardy at the North. They are originally from the hot climate of South China.

The hardy apricots of the world are in North Manchuria, now called Manchukuo, and in East Siberia. In my 1924 tour to north Manchuria, home of the old Manchu conquerors of China, I became interested in the apricots native of the region between Harbin, on the Siberian railway, and the Amur River. This section of China comes up like a wedge into eastern Siberia and is cut through by the Siberian railway. The conditions are really those of east Siberia on either side with minimum temperature of 50 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. I saved seed from many fruits and now have 45 seedlings. The size varies more or less and there is no good chance to determine the relative superiority as the seedlings were planted very closely in the row. The trees are a beautiful sight in bloom. The large flowers, white with distinct pink tinge, appear early before the leaves. The fruit is yellow, somewhat smaller than the apricots of commerce, and makes delicious preserves.

The Manchu apricots, Nos. 1-23, bore a heavy crop of good fruit in 1935 and a fair crop in 1936. This is surprising, considering that 1933, 1934 and 1936 were perhaps the driest and hottest years on record in this region. The trees are flourishing but are planted much too close for their best development. No. 1-23 were distributed in a small way as one-year-budded trees in 1934.

In 1935 a careful study was made of these 45 seedlings, and I decided that the best 12 should be given a name, and the remainder held for further study.

It is important that these named varieties should be set out under orchard conditions with abundant room for full development. The names are all Chinese, and mostly geographical names from the Harbin region.

The great advantage of these apricots is their early season, coming in here ahead of plums so that they find a ready market.

Of the Manchu apricots now under number, the following are now named: Manchu No. 1 is Sing; No. 2 is Ninguta; No. 3 is Chow; No. 4 is Sino; No. 8 is Lalin; No. 11 is Sansin; No. 16 is Tola; No. 18 is Hulan; No. 19 is Anda; No. 22 is Manchu; No. 23 is Mandarin; No. 39 is Zun.

Twelve Named Varieties of the Manchu Apricots

MANCHU apricot. Large yellow fruit; heavy crop. Fresh fruit No. 1 in size and quality. Cooking test: cooks up into pale yellow good quality sauce. Apparently the largest fruit in this lot of seedlings. The name Manchu apricot is now reserved for it.

MANDARIN apricot. Fruit large, rich yellow color; one of the best in quality, fresh or when cooked.

CHOW apricot. Tree productive; fruit large, good eating. Cooking test: pale yellow sauce of good quality.

SING apricot. (Chinese for apricot). Tree productive, fruit large. Cooking test: good rich orange yellow sauce, flavor stronger than some of the others.

NINGUTA apricot. Fruit large yellow with red blush. Crop very heavy. Season late, first week in August. Fresh fruit very mild, one of the mildest and best.

TOLA apricot. Large, freestone. Makes excellent quality sauce. 1935 crop very heavy. One of the best. Season early. August, 1935

ANDA apricot. Tree productive, freestone of good size. Season late. In cooking, stays firm and does not cook up. One of the very best in quality.

ZUN apricot. Quality of fruit, nearly excellent. Pit small, round, freestone.

SINO apricot. Heavy crop, fruit small, on 8 foot crowded tree. Cooking test: excellent flavor.

LALIN apricot. Fruit large, yellow with red blush. Fresh fruit good quality. Tree, a heavy crop. No cooking test. Season early.

HULAN apricot. Very heavy crop of large fruit. Season early. Cooking test; makes good flavored sauce.

SANSIN apricot. Heavy crop of large fruit. fresh fruit of excellent quality, making a rich orange-yellow sauce.

Price of Apricot Trees: One year old buds on native plum stock, each tree, One Dollar. No scions are available for spring.

NINE VARIETIES OF HANSEN BUSH CHERRIES

The selection of the native South Dakota Sandcherry (*Prunus Besseyi*), which I began in 1895, has been carried through some twelve plant generations, and is now well along in the second million plants. The best selections are budded on native plum roots. The fruit from these budded plantations show rapid and continuous improvement in size and quality, because both parents are selected for size and quality. Many of the latest selections have very small pits. Some good yellow-fruited seedlings have appeared.

Only 3 varieties have been named in earlier years: Sioux, Tomahawk and Champa. (See South Dakota Bulletin 224). The Sioux has transmitted large size and good quality to many of its seedlings here and in Manitoba experiments. A few were distributed in the early years under number; and 177 varieties were offered in 1934 as budded plants on native plum stock. But I prefer names to numbers and believe that the large size and good quality will soon come 100% true to seed. Plants of these sand cherries on their own roots can be obtained by layering. This will be slower than budding, but more certain in dry seasons.

Nine named varieties all with black fruit, are now offered, in one year buds on native plum roots, price per plant One Dollar. The names are all of Indian origin. This bush cherry is one of the favorite fruits of the Indians of South Dakota.

KEYAPAH. Fruit very large, quality very good, sweet. Pit small. Fairly freestone.

OAHE. Fruit good quality; very productive; low open habit. Pit oval, very small.

OKREEK. Fruit large, round with minute prickle, sweet, quality excellent. Equal to Sioux in quality and of better habit. Good bearer.

TEPEE. One of the Sioux seedlings. Heavy bearer. Very good quality. Medium large pit. Habit upright and spreading.

WAMPUM. Upright open habit, 4 feet. Excellent quality. Very heavy crop.

WASTA. Fruit medium sized, round; quality very good. Very heavy crop. Upright, open, spreading habit. Pit small, round.

WATUGA. Fruit large. Quality good. Pit small. Heavy bearer. Habit upright spreading.

WETA. Fruit large and round, quality very good. Pit small.

WEWELA. Fruit medium size, good quality, very heavy crop. Pit small. Habit low, upright, spreading.

100% Thornless Rose

Introduced 1936. This rose has 100% thornless stems, and the midrib of the leaf is entirely smooth. The flowers are single, pink, fragrant. The abundant red rose-hips in autumn and winter are noteworthy. Plant of sturdy upright habit. These plants are now being crossed with many large double-flowered varieties in other colors. A few one-year sprouts can be spared, Price, each, \$2.00.

In its present condition it is a pleasing ornamental shrub that will endure 50 below zero Fahrenheit without protection, and which may be found useful by the rose-breeders in eliminating thorns.

Shilka, East Siberia, Iris. Plants from seed I gathered in 1934 upon steep stony hillsides in the Shilka region, East Siberian, upon the north fork of the Siberian railway. Should be hardy far North and into Canada. This is probably *Iris dichotoma*. Color mostly purple with markings. One year plants, price, 3 for \$1.00.

NOTE This department does not conduct a commercial nursery, but propagates and distributes new varieties originated in this department or imported from similar climates of the Old World. Many acres of seedling fruits have been grown since the work was started by the writer in 1895. The improvement in size and quality of each plant generation is greater year by year. Hybridization and selection are the main methods of improvement.

No budded apple, pear and plum trees are ready for spring 1937, because no nursery stocks were available for budding the previous year.

TERMS. The money received from the sale of plants makes it possible to do the work on a larger scale than would otherwise be possible. Those who have followed the progress of the work for many years know the importance of ordering promptly, as soon as this list is received, as the supply of plants is limited. Terms are cash with order. No credit except to the Government Experiment Stations. For South Dakota orders add two percent to the above prices for State Retail tax.

The progress in Hardy Rose seedlings at this Station was recognized June 29, 1936 at the annual meeting of the American Rose Society at Des Moines, Iowa, in awarding First Prize to N. E. Hansen for 41 new seedlings.

